

[Discover](#)[Collections](#)[Store](#)[Connect](#)[Search the entire Hymnary](#)

How vain the cruel Herod's fear

Ely, LM
Thomas Tallis, 1484

Public Domain
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal®

How vain the cruel Herod's fear

Author: Sedulius, Coelius; **Translator:** Rev. J. M. Neale

Published in 10 hymnals

Printable scores: [PDF](#), [MusicXML](#)

Audio files: [MIDI](#)

Representative Text

1. How vain the cruel Herod's fear,
When told that Christ the King is near!
He takes not earthly realms away,
Who gives the realms that ne'er decay.

2. The Eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
By light their way to Light they trod,
And by their gifts confessed their God.

3. Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heavenly Lamb in meekness stood,
That He to whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.

4. And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spake the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

5. All glory, Jesu, be to Thee
For this Thy glad Epiphany:
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore.

Source: [The Cyber Hymnal #2669](#)

[All representative texts](#) • [Compare texts](#)

[^ top](#)

Author: Sedulius, Coelius

Sedulius, Coelius. The known facts concerning this poet, as contained in his two letters to Macedonius, are, that in early life, he devoted himself to heathen literature; that comparatively late in life he was converted to Christianity; and that amongst his friends were Gallieanus and Perpetua. The place of his birth is generally believed to have been Rome; and the date when he flourished 450. For this date the evidence is, that he referred to the Commentaries of Jerome, who died 420; is praised by Cassiodorus, who d. 575, and by Gelasius, who was pope from 492 to 496. His works were collected, after his death, by Asterius, who was consul in 494. They are (1) Carmen Paschale, a poem which treats of the whole Gospel story; (2) Opus Paschale,... [Go to person page >](#)

Translator: Rev. J. M. Neale

John M. Neale's life is a study in contrasts: born into an evangelical home, he had sympathies toward Rome; in perpetual ill health, he was incredibly productive; of scholarly temperament, he devoted much time to improving social conditions often ignored or despised by his contemporaries, he is lauded today for his contributions to the church and hymnody. [Contents](#)

came to expression early—he won the Seatonian prize for religious poetry eleven times while a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, England. He was ordained in the Church of England in 1842, but ill health and his strong support of the Oxford Movement kept him from ordinary parish ministry. So Neale spent the years between 1846 and 1866 as a warden of Sackvi... [Go to person page >](#)


[^ top](#)

Text Information

[Text Information](#) [Scripture References](#)

First Line: How vain the cruel Herod's fear
Original Language: Latin
Author: Sedulius, Coelius
Translator: Rev. J. M. Neale
Language: English

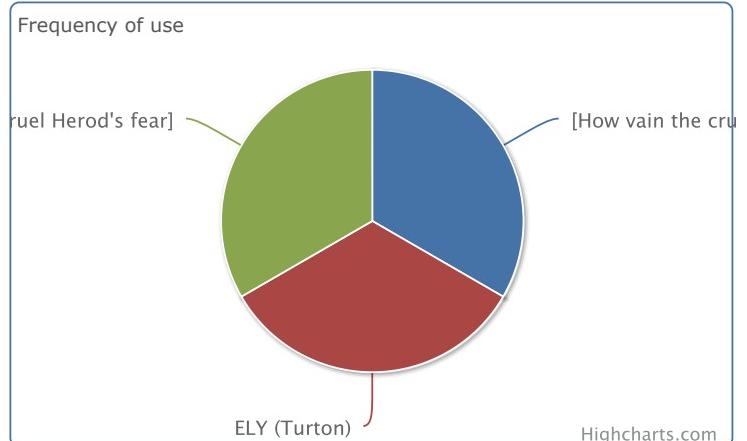
[^ top](#)

Tune

[\[How vain the cruel Herod's fear\]](#)

[ELY \(Turton\)](#)

[\[How vain the cruel Herod's fear\]](#)



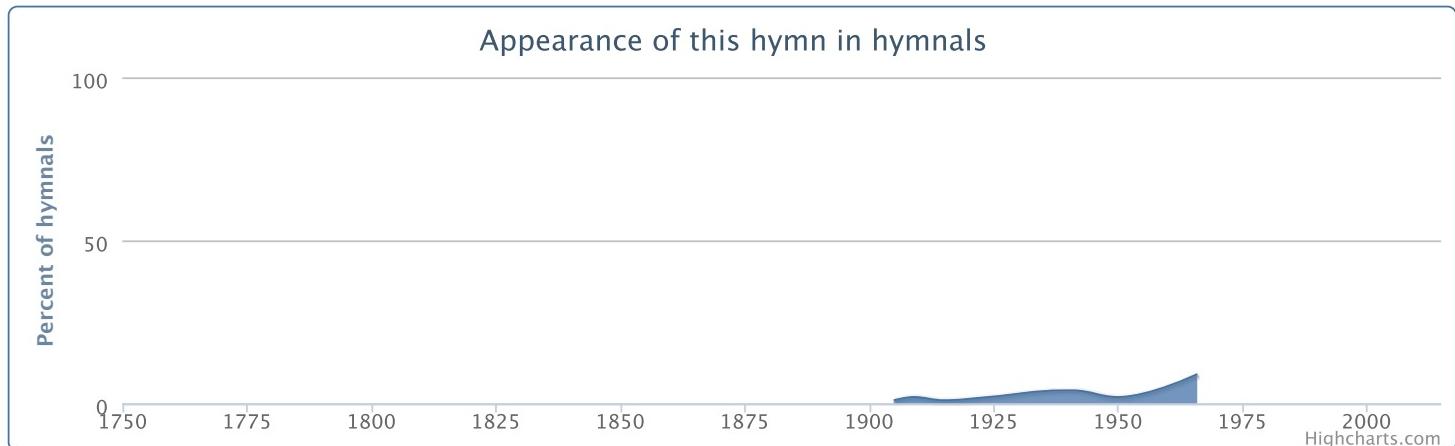
[All tunes published with 'How vain the cruel Herod's fear'](#)

[^ top](#)

Timeline

[Contents](#)

Appearance of this hymn in hymnals


[^ top](#)

Media

[Scores](#) [Audio](#)

The Cyber Hymnal #2669

[Adobe Acrobat image \(PDF\)](#)
[Noteworthy Composer score \(NWC\)](#)
[XML score \(XML\)](#)
[^ top](#)

Page Scans


[Contents](#)

35 EPIPHANY
Crudelis Herodes Deum

1. How vain the cru - el Her - od's fear When told that
2. The Eas - tern Sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
3. With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heaven-ly

Christ the King is near: He takes not earth - ly realms a -
on His gui - ding star; By light their way to Light they
Lamb in meek-ness stood, That He to Whom no sin was

way Who gives the realms that ne'er de - cay.
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God. A-men.
known Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.

4. And O what miracle divine 5. All glory, Jesus, be to Thee
When water reddened into wine! For this Thy glad Epiphany,
He spake the word and forth it flowed Whom with the Father we adore
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed. And Holy Ghost forevermore.

A Treasury of Catholic Song: comprising some two hundred hymns from Catholic sources old and new (1915), p.40

[^ top](#)

Instances

Instances (1 - 1 of 1)

[Add/Remove Fields](#) ▾

The Cyber Hymnal #2669



Include 9 pre-1979 instances

All instances

[^ top](#)

Suggestions or corrections? [Contact us](#)

